

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: ——— Product
DATE: —- -, 2003***

WIRELESS APPLICATION PROTOCOL
FOR MARINE AND COASTAL PRODUCTS

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) is the de facto industry standard of making products disseminated via the Internet, available to users of wireless technology. Currently, products in HTML format are not easily accessible via the Internet using handheld wireless devices. This document describes an improved method to reach users of NWS marine and coastal products by reformatting existing products to support access via WAP. This requires minimal effort by the NWS to reformat existing NWS products and provide them from existing NWS Internet servers using wireless protocols such as the Wireless Markup Language (WML). These products are then available to anyone provided they have an Internet Service Provider (ISP) which allows access via a device such as an Internet-Ready cellular phone or Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) which supports WAP. Since these products are in the public domain, they can also be acquired by intermediaries, repackaged, and retransmitted in accord with standard NWS product use policies.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

Fewer methods exist to receive weather information on water than on land and the NWS frequently receives requests to improve the means of disseminating information to mariners while they are onboard their vessels. Marine and coastal products include forecasts, observations, warnings, watches, and advisories of conditions of concern to mariners including winds, waves, fog, ice, and tsunamis. These include products of the marine, hurricane, ice and tsunami programs. Most of these products are issued routinely two to four times per day, and updated when necessary, to describe current and forecast conditions including any event-driven marine hazards occurring or expected over the marine areas. These products are intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property, and enhancing the nations economy.

3. Audience:

The target audience for these products includes commercial and recreational mariners.

4. Presentation Format:

The products are in an alphanumeric format in accordance with existing NWS policies which may be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page email link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch. Feedback on these products is also

obtained at Focus Group meetings, from Boat Shows, Customer Surveys and via telephone.

Technical and policy questions, and comments on the Wireless Application Protocol For Marine Forecasts may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Timothy Rulon W/OS21
Marine Dissemination Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13134
Silver Spring, MD 21910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: timothy.rulon@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

Information on WAP may be found at: <http://www.wapforum.org/>.

2. **Availability:**

It is intended that marine and coastal products using WAP will be available on a 24x7 basis via the Internet.

3. **Additional Information:** N/A